

From: Silva
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/14/01 11:19pm
Subject: Disappointing

www.slashdot.com and other technical/software web news spots have begged readers like myself to send in our 2cents worth of comments towards the outcome of this trial. Therefore, please read below.

Reading through the technical/software news, it appears that this trial is taking a disappointing turn for the worse since the outcome appears that Microsoft will be allowed to be a monopoly, but will have the additional legal backing to keep doing even more of it.

The first trial was correct in attempting to split Microsoft into 2 separate groups. The reason for that is that the operating system group would be {forced} to lay an even and fair playing field for anyone and everyone wanting to create programs to run on the Windows operating system, while the application software group would be equally on a level competition field by {only} using the known application interfaces provided to everyone by the operating system group.

Please....To keep Microsoft the way it is now behaving with only a task force of 3 people to keep Microsoft honest by looking at millions and millions of lines of source code would be a disappointing result of the trial. Microsoft is based on all major continents last time I checked. 3 people is simply not enough to look at all that information and deal with all the extra issues that will be thrown at them on top of all that. It is too many tasks for too few people and things will be easily obfuscated past such a small group. If you decide to go this way, please add more people. Microsoft strongly relies on the fact that customers do not go beyond loading the initial CDrom or bootdisks. Therefore if your 3 people find problems {after} the CDroms are sent out in public, you have just lost what you wanted to achieve. Few people actually update their machines with the fixes presented afterwards and the only way to be sure that the majority of users use the updated version is to physically send customers updated CDroms which Microsoft will not want to do at all. Despite all the patches and software updates and fixes presented on the Microsoft website, it prefers to know that the majority of users has non-updated....
Windows98 CDrom - it is difficult to remove Internet Explorer
Windows2000 CDrom - it is difficult to load a competing operating system.
WindowsXP CDrom - it is impossible to remove Internet Explorer and it is taking a big hit against a company called SUN by leaving out Java.

Please.... Separate Microsoft Applications from the Microsoft Operating System in some form or manner so that it is a level playing field for everybody. Right now Microsoft has the inside scoop on Microsoft while everybody else is on the outside looking in and only able to use the published/known operating system interfaces. If a person, group, or business is to create a program using only the known application Program Interfaces (APIs), Microsoft has the homegrown advantage to be able to create a quicker, fancier version competing against that product. We all watched NETSCAPE die to a former shadow of what it could have become because it was starved for income against Microsoft's free Internet Explorer plus all the twists and turns put into the operating system to keep Netscape Out. If you do not separate applications from operating system in some form so that everybody has a fair chance, you will be seeing history repeat itself. BORLAND (a competing programming language company) and several other companies used to create very good compiler programs for Microsoft DOS and early Windows but they are mere shadows of themselves since they do not have insider information like the Microsoft compiler language programmers have access to. Right now, I won't be surprised if Adobe ACROBAT and other great programs become part of the Microsoft stable in a few years. The reason for saying that is that they have incorporated Microsoft's Visual Basic into their program(s) and since they have no competing product to replace it, Adobe Acrobat is either going to be a mere shadow of itself in the future or it will have to be sold to Microsoft itself when it eventually gets cornered with no alternatives to Visual Basic and the information Microsoft decides to present or break. Please have all application program interfaces (APIs) for the operating system brought out for everybody to use so that others can bring out competitive products.

Being a monopoly isn't wrong if you are the biggest fish in the pond, especially if all things are considered equal, fair and played on a level playing field, but doing actions to hinder fair competition and maintain that monopoly should be considered illegal.

Sincerely,
Jose Da Silva,
11280 Westminster Hwy,
Richmond, BC, V6X-1B3,
Canada